

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-25, 37 and 38 without prejudice.

1. (Canceled).
2. (Canceled).
3. (Canceled).
4. (Canceled).
5. (Canceled).
6. (Canceled).
7. (Canceled).
8. (Canceled).
9. (Canceled).
10. (Canceled).
11. (Canceled).
12. (Canceled).
13. (Canceled).
14. (Canceled).
15. (Canceled).
16. (Canceled).
17. (Canceled).
18. (Canceled).
19. (Canceled).
20. (Canceled).
21. (Canceled).
22. (Canceled).

23. (Canceled).

24. (Canceled).

25. (Canceled).

26. (Original) A method for cleaning a portion of a protective shield containing a measuring device, the method comprising:

providing a scraper disposed about at least a portion of the protective shield;

applying an external force to the scraper to move the scraper longitudinally along the protective shield between first and second positions to thereby clean the portion of the protective shield over which the scraper moves.

27. (Original) A method according to claim 26, wherein the measurement device comprises a temperature sensor.

28. (Original) A method according to claim 26, wherein at least a portion of the scraper comprises a magnetic material, whereby the external force comprises an electromagnetic force.

29. (Original) A method according to claim 26, wherein the protective shield is disposed within a pipe.

30. (Original) A method according to claim 29, wherein the external force is generated by at least one solenoid or permanent magnet installed outside the pipe.

31. (Original) A method according to claim 29, wherein the external force is generated by two solenoids installed outside the pipe.

32. (Original) A method according to claim 31, wherein the pipe has a circumference and each solenoid is mounted around the entire circumference of the pipe.

33. (Original) A method according to claim 29, wherein the pipe is generally tubular and the apparatus further comprises:

a first solenoid mounted circumferentially around at least a portion of the pipe and polarized with an S-N polarity; and

a second solenoid mounted circumferentially around at least a portion of the pipe next to the first solenoid and polarized with an N-S polarity;

whereby the solenoids create an electromagnetic field that move the scraper longitudinally along the protective shield between the first position and the second position.

34. (Original) A method according to claim 33, wherein the scraper comprises:

a scraping element slidably disposed about at least a portion of the outer perimeter of the protective shield between the first and second positions; and

a magnetic core attached to the scraping element and positioned between the scraping element and the solenoids.

35. (Original) A method according to claim 34, wherein the scraping element is generally tubular and is disposed about the entire outer perimeter of the protective shield.

36. (Original) A method according to claim 35, wherein the magnetic core is generally cylindrical and is concentrically disposed about the scraping element.

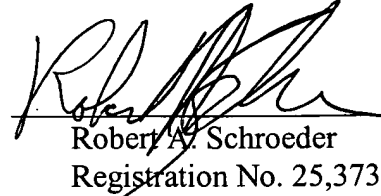
37. (Canceled).

38. (Canceled).

If there are any remaining issues that can be resolved by telephone, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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